

## Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 L-03 SP-02 MMO-01 /026 W

----- 048393

R 030900Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908

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FOR CU/NEA NEWBERRY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, AF

SUBJ: IV GRANTS FY '76

1. SUMMARY: AFTER PLACING TWO OUT OF FIVE GRANTS FOR FY 76, WE HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE GOA SEEMS UNWILLING APPROVE FURTHER IV GRANTS IN THIS FY. POST PROPOSES SHIFT REMAINING IV ALLOCATION TO OTHER CU PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) POSITION NOW (MARCH 31) SEEMS THAT THEY WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY FURTHER CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL VISTOR PROGRAM (IVP) GRANTS THIS YEAR. AFTER AGREEING TO TWO OUT OF FIVE GRANTS. GOA HAS SYSTEMATICALLY REFUSED TO "CLEAR" PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES AND NUMBEROUS PROPOSED ALTERNATES. WE BELIEVE GOA RESISTANCE COMES FROM HIGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WHO OBJECT TO "FOREIGNERS" DECIDING WHO TRAVELS OVERSEAS, PLUS HOPE OF SOME OFFICIALS THAT U.S. MAY ALLOW THE IVP PROGRAM TO BE USED IN SOME CASES BY AFGHANS TO PAY OFF FAVORS, EITHER FAMILY OR PERSONAL, GOA OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT OVERSEAS TRAVEL GRANTS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO AFGHAN AUTHORITIES TO PICK CANDIDATES AND THAT WE SHOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE CHOICE. OBVIOUSLY WE FIND THIS POSITION UNACCEPTABLE.

3. OUR POSITION WITH GOA ON IVP HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND HAS BEEN SO STATED IN ALL LEVELS WITH MFA, THAT WE WELCOME

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GOA SUGGESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT

FINAL DECISION ON CANDIDATES AND SUBSEQUENT INVITATIONS  
MUST REMAIN OURS.

4. CURRENT STATUS: THE IV COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL U.S. MISSION ELEMENTS, HAS PLACED TWO OUT OF FIVE IV GRANTS FOR FY 76. IN ADDITION TO FUNDS FOR THE SPECIAL VISIT LATER THIS YEAR, WE THEREFORE HAVE THREE UNEXPENDED GRANTS.

5. COUNTRY TEAM'S IV COMMITTEE UNWILLING SUBSTITUTE MULTI-REGIONAL (MR) GRANTS FOR IV IN THIS FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE GIVING GOA OPTION TO NAME CANDIDATES WOULD VITIATE THE EFFORT WE HAVE MADE TO UNDERLINE TO GOA THE PRINCIPLES THAT LIE BEHIND IV PROGRAM IN HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO MORE REALISTIC AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TON THEIR PART. THEREFORE, WE HAVE INFORMED GOA THAT SINCE WE HAVE HAD NO APPROVALS BY MARCH 31, 1976 (PREVIOUSLY HAD TOLD THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THIS WAS A FINAL DEADLINE), WE ARE TERMINATING THE IV PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.

6. ACTION PROPOSED AND REQUESTED: RATHER THAN GIVE UP UNCOMMITTED FY 76 FUNDS ALLOCATED TO IV, WE PROPOSE SHIFT FUNDS TO INTER-COUNTRY EXCHANGES IN AREAS OF BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES, AMERICAN STUDIES, AND PROGRAMS TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. ELECTORAL PROCESSES, PLUS T/O GRANTS ON POST-GRAD. LEVEL.

7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR REPROGRAMMING AS WELL AS CU ADVICE ON OTHER WAYS TO CREATIVELY REPROGRAM UNCOMMITTED FY 76 CU FUNDS.

8. ALSO, WE ARE WORKING ON OUR FY 77 PROGRAM PROPOSAL, IN WHICH WE PLAN TO CHANGE PROGRAM MIX IN ORDER REDUCE IV GRANTS, SHIFTING SOME RESOURCES INTO OTHER CATEGORIES, INCLUDING MR GRANTS.

9. WE ARE ASSUMING, BASEDON DCM AND PAO DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH NEWBERRY/WHELLOCK/PARKER, THAT UNLESS THERE IS A DRASTIC WORLD-WIDE CULTURAL EXCHANGE BUDGET REDUCTION, THE FY 77 CU FUNDING LEVEL IN AFGHANISTAN WILL NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFECTED.

10. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KABUL02411  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760126-0536  
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**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IV GRANTS FY '76  
**TAGS:** OEXC, AF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006